

Next Generation 911 (NG911)

Next Generation 911, better known as text-to-911, is a new emergency communications system that allows an individual to reach 911 call centers by sending a text message from their mobile device, instead of placing a phone call. This system has already been implemented in cities and counties across 16 states, including New York, Texas, and Ohio—but is not yet available in California.

On Tuesday, September 30, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 1211, which directed the State’s Office of Emergency Management to develop a “timeline for testing, implementing and operating a Next Generation 911 emergency communication system.” A similar text-to-911 system has already been tested locally at police departments in Downey, Arcadia, and on the campus of California State University Long Beach.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

A text-to-911 emergency communication system would be extremely beneficial to the over 10 million residents of Los Angeles County living throughout 88 cities and over 140 unincorporated communities. A Countywide text-to-911 system would unify emergency responses, while cutting down on confusion and lapses in coverage. Currently, the only way to contact 911 is by placing a phone call. This puts our residents who may be deaf, hard of hearing, or living with a speech disability at an extreme disadvantage, and puts their lives in danger. A text-to-911 system would allow this population to quickly, and efficiently reach emergency services. This system would also help save lives by enabling someone to reach 911 when making a voice call would put them further into harm's way, such as in a kidnapping or sex trafficking situation.

As the largest municipality in the country and the ultimate safety net for its residents, it is Los Angeles County's duty to ensure that every single resident is able to reach 911 services in the event of an emergency.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Chief Executive Office work with all appropriate County departments to explore the viability of establishing a Next Generation 911 emergency communication system throughout Los Angeles County, and report back in 45 days.

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